

In those cases where the patient is of a decidedly scrofulous habit, general remedies, appropriate to that condition, will be administered with benefit; and in all cases hygienic measures are necessary as adjuvants in the treatment of lupus.

The real treatment of this disease is, however, essentially local; it has for its object the resolution of the tubercles in the incipient stage, or at least before the process of ulceration is established, and in the event of this morbid condition having taken place, to produce cicatrisation of the ulcerated surfaces. In the first instance, when we wish to alter the vitality of the skin so as to produce resolution, ointments composed of the proto-ioduret, or of the deuto-ioduret of mercury, have been found most serviceable at the Hospital of St. Louis. These ointments should be rubbed gently over the tubercles occasionally, but the latter, being much more active than the former, ought not to be employed so freely. The formulae used at the hospital mentioned order half to one grain of the proto-ioduret of mercury to the ounce of purified lard for the first, and for the second half a grain of the deuto-ioduret of mercury to the same quantity of lard. The ioduret of sulphur ointment has also been found serviceable for similar purposes and in like cases. M. Cazenave has recently employed an ointment composed of thirty grains of ioduret of ammonia to the ounce of lard with much benefit. The animal oil of Dippel and the vapor douche are sometimes beneficial.

In the event, however, of these remedies proving inefficacious—and it should not be forgotten that there are cases in which they would not be applicable—we must then have recourse to more active measures. The superiority of caustic local applications over all other remedies in the treatment of lupus is a practical fact now pretty fully established, and hence a variety of preparations of this nature have been recommended by different writers, the most important of which we shall now introduce to the notice of the reader. Those that have been found most beneficial at the Hospital of St. Louis are Dupuytren's powder, the acid nitrate of mercury, and the arsenical paste of Côme. The first, which is composed of proto-chloruret of mercury and arsenious acid in the proportion of one or two parts of arsenic to one hundred parts of the former, is used in very young patients. The second, made by dissolving one part of proto-nitrate of mercury in eight of nitric acid—a much stronger and more painful remedy—is employed when the disease is of some standing, and when occurring in adults. The parts are gently touched with the solution to the extent of a five-shilling piece. The third is also a painful and powerful remedy; a thin layer of the paste, not exceeding the circumference of a shilling, is applied to the parts. The application of this agent is followed by intense pain and the formation of thickish and very adherent scabs. It sometimes occasions erysipelas of the face, but this is rather a favorable occurrence than otherwise, as it may alter the vitality of the skin and the morbid action of the parts. During the process of cicatrisation, especial care should be taken to guard against occlusion of the different outlets and passages in the vicinity of the disease. Mr. Benjamin Phillips has found the chloride of antimony, the farriers' caustic, and the proto-nitrate of mercury, very successful at the Marylebone In-

firmary. The antimony is brushed over the surface with a camel-hair pencil every third day, and in order that the caustic may be applied directly to the diseased parts, Mr. Phillips recommends a poultice to be applied for two or three days previous to the employment of the escharotic.

The chloride of zinc has been much extolled, first by M. Canquoin, of Paris, and subsequently by Mr. A. Ure, as a curative agent in several malignant diseases. The reader will find an interesting memoir on this subject by Mr. Ure, in the "Medical Gazette" for 1836. The beneficial effects of this preparation in the treatment of lupus have been again brought under the notice of the profession by Dr. Byron, in an article entitled "Cases, with Observations on certain Malignant Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Cellular Substance of the Head and Face," published in the "Dublin Medical Journal" for September, 1842. Dr. Byron relates several cases which were successfully treated by the application of a lotion containing one part of the chloride of zinc to four of water. The solution was used once a-day. Dr. B., however, did not confine himself to local remedies. He considers constitutional treatment to be of considerable importance with a view to effect a cure, and accordingly prescribed those general remedies which the particular condition of each patient seemed to indicate.

Mr. Donovan, of Dublin, has lately proposed a new remedy, which he calls the "liquor hydriodatis arsenici et hydrargyri," for the treatment of this and other diseases of a destructive character. It seems to be a most efficacious medicine in the treatment of lupus. Mr. Donovan has published a variety of cases of this disease furnished to him by different physicians, in which the employment of the above-mentioned preparation was attended by the happiest results. One drachm measure of the liquor of hydriodate of arsenic and mercury consists of water, one drachm; arsenious acid, one-eighth of a grain; peroxide of mercury, a quarter of a grain; and iodine, in the state of hydriodic acid, about three-quarters of a grain. The dose to begin with, for an adult, is fifteen drops, which may be increased gradually to forty drops. Some practitioners, however, are of opinion that all the curative effects of the medicine will be secured by doses not exceeding twenty minims. This preparation has also been used externally, in the form of lotion, with apparent benefit. Mr. Donovan's combination of arsenic, iodine, and mercury, is a most valuable therapeutic agent, not only in lupus, but in a variety of other cutaneous diseases, and is well worthy the attention of the profession. I consider this remedy, and the arsenical paste of Frère Côme, which I have seen attended with the best effects at the Hospital of St. Louis, to possess properties of the highest importance in the treatment of lupus.

29, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square,
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IODINE IN THE URINE.

M. Scharlan, having administered as much as seventy grains of the iodide of potassium in the twenty-four hours, found the whole of the salt in the patient's urine. The same, he affirms, occurs with respect to the bromate of sodium.